



**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT**

**I. HEADING**

**Date:** December 17, 1998

**Subject:** Meadowlands Plating and Finishing Site  
East Rutherford, Bergen County, New Jersey

**From:** Paul L. Kahn, OSC  
U.S. EPA, Region II  
Reponse and Pervention Branch

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POLREP No. 1 (Initial)

**II. BACKGROUND**

<b>Site No.:</b>	L W
<b>Delivery Order No.:</b>	2101-02-033
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	N/A
<b>CERCLIS No.:</b>	N/A
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non-NPL
<b>Action Memo Status:</b>	Approved 11/19/98
<b>Start Date:</b>	12/8/98
<b>Demobilization Date:</b>	N/A
<b>Completion Date:</b>	N/A

### III. SITE INFORMATION

#### A. Incident Category

CERCLA incident category: Inactive Production Facility

#### B. Situation

##### 1. Site Description/ Information:

MPF, Inc. operated a metal electroplating and metal finishing facility for the tool and decorative automotive parts industry. Operations at the Site included pretreatment by acid and caustic dipping, finish stripping, vapor degreasing, and electroplating of chromium, copper, nickel and cadmium metals. Acids, metallic plating wastes and cyanide-bearing wastes were generated and treated in a small on-site facility. This resulted in tons of filter cake material being generated, some of which is still on the Site in various containers and inside equipment. MPF, Inc. leased the building and the plating equipment and ceased business operations at the Site in December 1997.

The building is in good condition; the roof is intact and no evidence of water leaks/damage was observed. The rear parking lot is fenced on three sides, but the fencing is incomplete and there is a ready access into the Site from one side of the building. Utilities such as fire alarms, sprinklers, electricity, water and waste disposal are partially functional. The heating system is partially operational.

A Preliminary Assessment ("PA") of the Site was conducted by EPA on September 9, 17, 18 and 21, 1998. During the September 9th assessment, samples of materials found at the Site were acquired for RCRA TCLP analyses revealed the presence of the following:

- ° Wastes with the Characteristics of Corrosivity: pH ranging from 0 to 13.4.
- ° Wastes with the Characteristics of Ignitability : flash point less than 140° F.
- ° Wastes with the Characteristics of Reactivity: cyanide-bearing compounds
- ° Wastes with the Characteristics of Toxicity: chromium.

In addition to the analytical information, visual assessment of the premises revealed the following:

- ° Approximately 300 various sized, unsecured drums of hazardous, toxic, corrosive, reactive, or poisonous chemicals inside the premises, some of which are

leaking their contents onto the floor.

- ° Approximately 80,000 gallons of free-flowing corrosive plating liquids in subfloor concrete troughs.
- ° Approximately 50,000 gallons of corrosive plating liquids inside various plating/ holding/ dipping tanks.
- ° Approximately 1,400 pounds of metallic cyanide compounds contained in six partially filled drums stored in a bin near open tanks containing acids.
- ° Approximately 400 small chemical containers in a laboratory area.
- ° Thirty-five over packed 55-gallon drums containing metallic plating wastes.
- ° Approximately twenty cylinders of compressed propane, hydrogen and other flammable gases inside and outside the building.
- ° A box trailer containing 68 drums of unknown chemicals or wastes outside the building.
- ° Three 25-cubic yard roll-off containers, one of which contains of dried metallic plating wastes, located in an area in the rear parking lot.
- ° Two semi-buried tanks of nickel plating wastes, each containing approximately 1,000 gallons, located outside the building.
- ° A waste treatment facility containing unknown, but visible amounts of liquid wastes and partially treated solid plating wastes.
- ° Approximately 400 gallons of waste oil contained in a leaking open tank, located inside the building.
- ° An outside underground #2 fuel oil storage tank containing an unknown amount of fuel stored within.
- ° 33-gallons of liquid cyanide waste in six 55-gallon drums.
- ° An underground gasoline storage tank containing an unknown amount of gasoline.
- ° Abandoned plating tanks containing approximately 1 ton of precipitated metallic crystals.

- ° An undetermined amount of contaminated wood, metal, and concrete from plating liquids containment devices.
- ° A polypropylene open-top mixing tank containing nitric acid, located within 10 feet of the cyanide storage bin.
- ° An old treatment tank filled with a dark colored liquid with pH < 2, staged in the rear parking lot.

Some of the drums and containers appear to be in good condition, but essentially all are being stored without regard to chemical compatibility or other environmental controls. The owner of the property, Top Notch Reality, Inc. had personnel at the Site during the day, acting in a care-taker role, but has recently filed for bankruptcy.

2. Response Actions to Date:

- A. EPA and START performed a site investigation on 9/11/98 through 9/17/98. Access was granted to EPA by the Federal Bankruptcy Trustee on 11/18/98.
- B. Full mobilization to the Site occurred between 12/8/-12/11/98.

3. Current Situation:

From 12/14-12/18/98 Site activities included setup, debris removal and establishing command post functions. Cyanide have been overpacked and restaged away from acids.

4. Next Steps:

Continue to clean warehouse area of debris and dirt. Drums from trailer will be off-loaded and staged. Drums and vats will be sampled, and hazcated. Once hazcating has been completed, disposal will be coordinated. Cyanide powder drums will be overpacked and removed from site.

5. Key Issues:

Stabilizing cyanide compounds, heating work areas to prevent damage to water pipes, PRP search activities.

## IV. COST INFORMATION

	Current Ceiling	Current Action Cost	Current Amount Remaining
ERCS Contractor	\$500,000	\$32,869.96	\$467,130.04
START	\$40,000	-	-
USCG	\$130,000	-	-
EPA	\$65,000	-	-

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for recovery.

Date: 12/17/98

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